West Nile Virus and Other Mosquito-borne Disease Report

September 2 – September 8, 2018 (Report Week 36)

West Nile Virus

Canada

Human

During surveillance week 36, ending on September 8, 2018, the Public Health Agency of Canada was informed of 2 additional West Nile virus (WNV) infections: 1 in Manitoba and 1 in Québec. A number of other possible infections remain under investigation.

As of week 36, a total of 107 clinical cases of WNV have been reported by the following four provinces: Alberta (8), Manitoba (25), Ontario (52), and Québec (22). Of these, 42 (39%) have been classified as WNV neurological syndrome, 33 (31%) as WNV non-neurological and 32 (30%) are unspecified. Five deaths have been reported. In addition, 12 WNV asymptomatic infections have been reported: Alberta (4), Manitoba (3), Ontario (2), and Québec (3).

Mosquito

To date (week 36), the PHAC has been notified of 15,263 mosquito pools tested for WNV: Saskatchewan (761), Manitoba (1,909), Ontario (11,247), and Québec (1,346). Of these, a total of 537 (3.52%) have tested positive for WNV: 50 in Saskatchewan, 168 in Manitoba, 283 in Ontario, and 36 in Québec.

Wild Bird

During surveillance week 36, British Columbia reported their first WNV positive dead wild birds. To date (week 36), 83 out of 171 dead wild birds have tested positive for WNV by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC), Manitoba Agriculture and BC Ministry of Agriculture-Animal Health Centre: British Columbia (2), Saskatchewan (3), Manitoba (14), Ontario (28), and Québec (37). In addition, 4 live birds in Québec have tested positive for WNV by the University of Montréal.

Equine

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has reported 69 horses with West Nile fever in the following four provinces: Alberta (37), Saskatchewan (24), Manitoba (6), and Ontario (2).

United States and U.S. territories

As of September 4th, 559 human cases of WNV have been reported to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of these 312 (56%) were classified as neuroinvasive disease and 247 (44%) as non-neuroinvasive disease. Eighteen deaths have been reported. In addition, 136 presumptive viremic blood donors have been identified.

Europe and Neighboring Countries

As of September 6th, 1,112 human cases of West Nile fever have been reported to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Seventy-one deaths have been reported. (Weekly updates: 2018 West Nile fever transmission season)

Other Mosquito-borne Diseases in Canada

Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus

The CFIA has reported 10 horses testing positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in Ontario. No human cases of EEEV have been reported to the PHAC during the 2018 season.

California Serogroup virus

Since May 1, 2018, 23 human cases/exposures of California serogroup virus have been reported by the National Microbiology Laboratory in the following seven provinces: Alberta (1), Saskatchewan (4), Manitoba (1), Ontario (5), Quebec (5), New Brunswick (5), and Nova Scotia (2). Additional work to further type these as Jamestown Canyon virus or Snowshoe hare virus is on-going.

FIGURE 1: Geographic distribution of WNV human clinical cases and asymptomatic infections in Canada, 2018

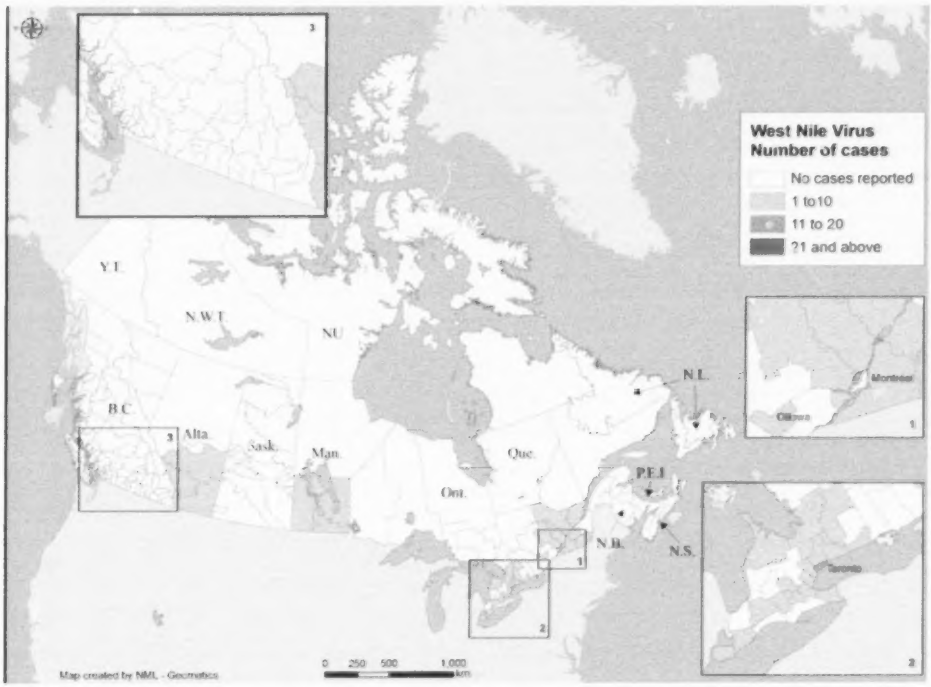
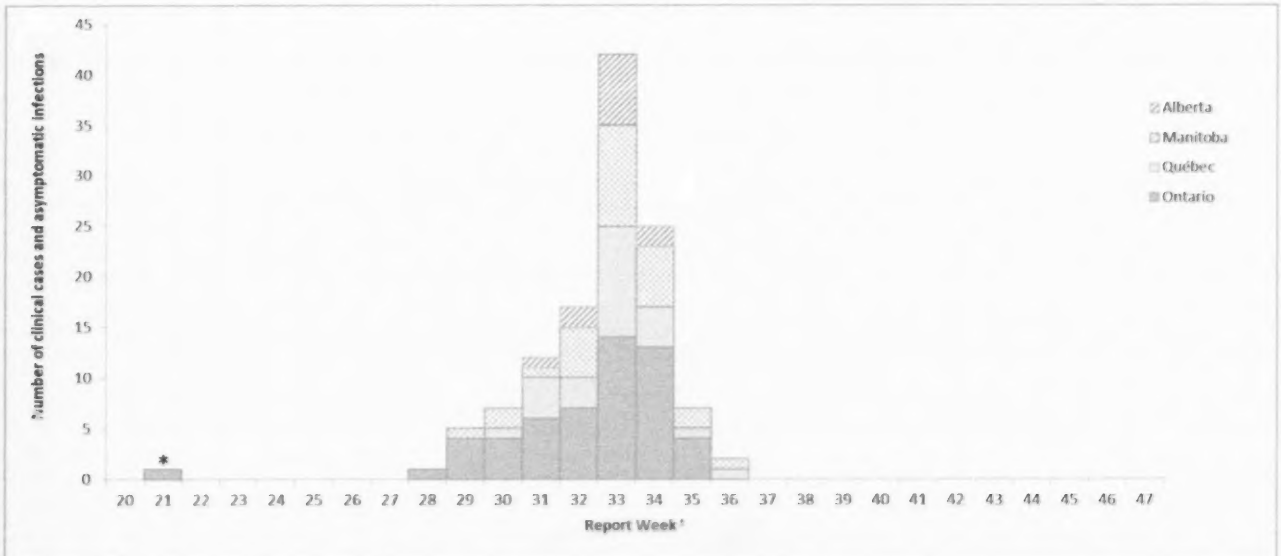


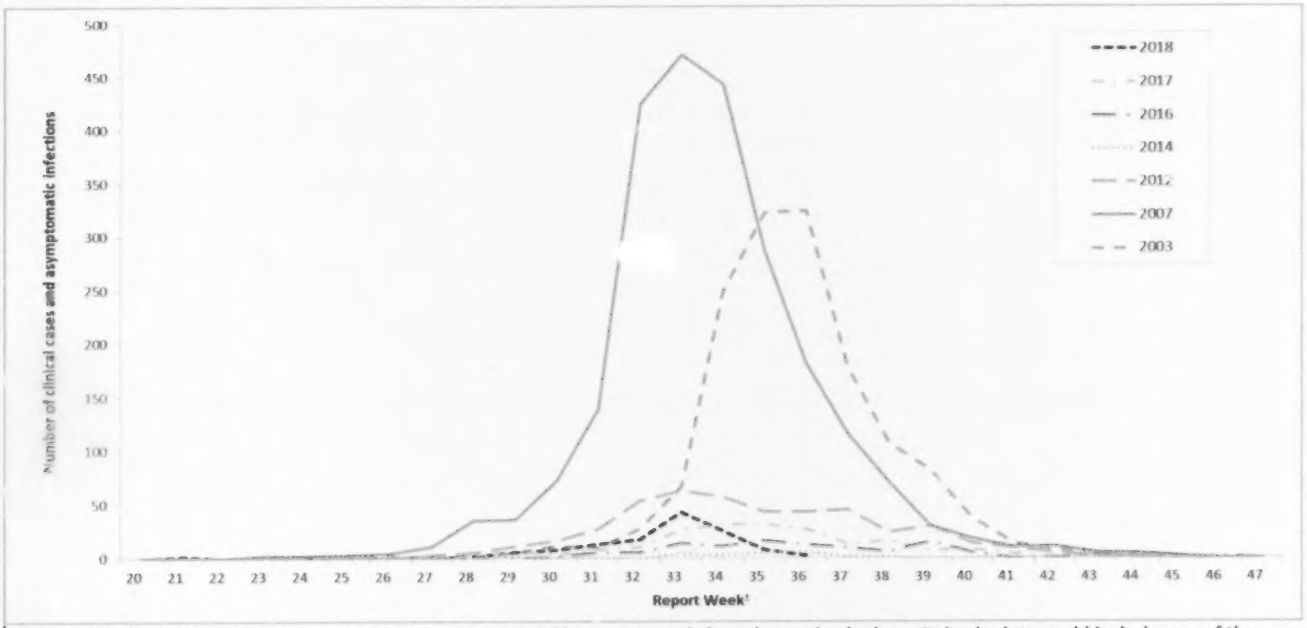
FIGURE 2: WNV human clinical cases and asymptomatic infections in Canada by report week[‡], 2018



‡ WNV clinical cases and asymptomatic infections are grouped by report week, based on episode date. Episode date could include one of the following: onset date, diagnosis date, lab sample date or reporting date.

* WNV likely acquired while travelling outside of Canada.

FIGURE 3: WNV human clinical cases and asymptomatic infections for selected years by report week[‡], in Canada



‡ WNV clinical cases and asymptomatic infections are grouped by report week, based on episode date. Episode date could include one of the following: onset date, diagnosis date, lab sample date or reporting date.

TABLE 1: WNV human clinical cases and asymptomatic infections in Canada by report week* and year to date, 2018

Province/Territory	Clinical Cases				Total travel-related cases[2]	Total asymptomatic infections[3]
	Neurological syndrome	Non-neurological syndrome	Unclassified/ Unspecified	Total clinical cases[1]		
Report week 36: September 2 to September 8, 2018						
British Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saskatchewan[4]	0	-	-	0	-	-
Manitoba	0	0	1	1	0	0
Ontario	0	0	0	0	0	0
Québec	1	0	0	1	0	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yukon Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Year to date: January 1 to September 8, 2018						
British Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta	1	7	0	8	2	4
Saskatchewan[4]	0	-	-	0	-	-
Manitoba	3	3	19	25	0	3
Ontario	22	18	12	52	2	2
Québec	16	5	1	22	1	3
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yukon Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**42**	**33**	**32**	**107**	**5**	**12**

* WNV clinical cases and asymptomatic infections are grouped by report week, based on episode date. Episode date could include one of the following: onset date, diagnosis date, lab sample date or reporting date.

[1] Total clinical cases are the sum of confirmed and probable: WNV neurological and non-neurological syndromes, along with any unclassified or unspecified cases.

[2] Likely related to travel outside the Province/Territory. These cases are included in either the total clinical cases or WNV asymptomatic infections.

[3] Satisfies WNV diagnostic test criteria in the absence of clinical criteria. This category could include asymptomatic blood donors whose blood is screened using a nucleic acid amplification test, by blood operators (i.e. Canadian Blood Services or Héma-Québec) and is subsequently brought to the attention of public health officials. Blood operators in Canada perform a supplementary WNV specific nucleic acid amplification test following any positive donor screen test result.

[4] Saskatchewan provides counts of WNV neurological syndrome cases only.

TABLE 2: WNV mosquito surveillance* in Canada, as of September 8, 2018

Province	Number of positive mosquito pools	Number of mosquito pools tested	Percentage of positive mosquito pools (%)
Saskatchewan	50	761	6.57
Manitoba	168	1,909	8.80
Ontario	283	11,247	2.52
Québec	36	1,346	2.67
Total	**537**	**15,263**	**3.52**

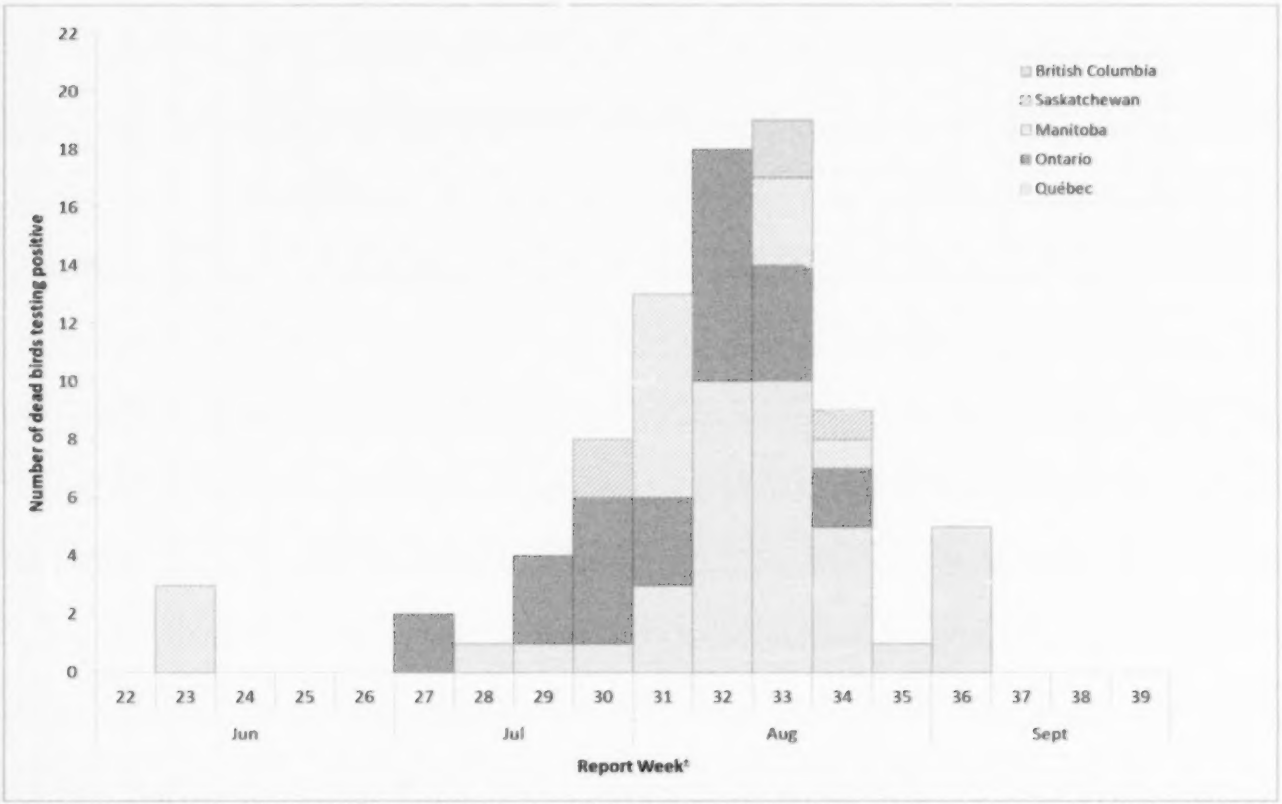
*Mosquito surveillance data is reported by the following four provinces: Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

TABLE 3: Total number of WNV mosquito pools tested by report week and by province/ territory, 2018†

Province	Report Week															
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	Total
Saskatchewan	0	15	18	17	45	55	90	104	96	106	62	65	52	26	10	**761**
Manitoba	15	39	89	107	124	122	241	240	247	169	172	163	113	39	29	**1,909**
Ontario	0	0	0	0	842	955	1,024	963	1,073	1,059	1,156	1,124	1,133	998	920	**11,247**
Québec	0	69	77	105	105	113	109	109	110	99	123	122	102	103	0	**1,346**
Total	**15**	**123**	**184**	**229**	**1,116**	**1,245**	**1,464**	**1,416**	**1,526**	**1,433**	**1,513**	**1,474**	**1,400**	**1,166**	**959**	**15,263**

† Detailed West Nile Virus mosquito surveillance data can be accessed through provincial/territorial websites.

FIGURE 4: Number of WNV positive dead wild birds in Canada* by report week‡, 2018



* Not all provinces conduct dead wild bird surveillance as part of their respective WNV surveillance program. However, WNV positive dead wild birds may be identified through the National Wildlife Disease Surveillance Program, CWHC or by specific provinces.

‡ WNV positive birds are grouped by report week, based on best date available. Best date could include one of the following: date found, date of death, date submitted, or date received.